

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
AID-05 IO-13 SSM-03 /083 W
-----100784 271732Z /43

O 271601Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6917
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS
SUBJECT: LIKUD, DMC MAY RENEW TALKS

1. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, THERE HAVE BEEN NEW CONTACTS
BETWEEN THE LIKUD AND THE DMC OVER RENEWING COALITION
NEGOTIATIONS IN AN APPARENT EFFORT BY BEGIN TO BRADEN
HIS COALITION BEFORE HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.
BEGIN TOOK THE INITIATIVE AND MET YIGAEEL YADIN
PRIVATELY ON JUNE 23. HE IS THOUGHT TO HAVE SUGGESTED
TO YADIN THAT THE REFERENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S BASIC
GUIDELINES TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND
338 MEETS THE DMC'S FOREIGNPOLICY POSITIONS. IN
ADDITION TO THE THREE CABINET PORTFOLIOS (JUSTICE,
SOCIAL BETTERMENT, AND TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS)
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THAT HE IS HOLDING FOR THE DMC,BEGIN REPORTEDLY
OFFERED YADIN THE DEPUTY PREMIERSHIP WITH SPECIFIC
RESPONSIBILITIES THAT WOULD INCLUDE A VOICE ON
FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICIES.

2. AFTER MEETING WITH THE LIKUD LEADERSHIP THE
FOLLOWING DAY, BEGIN REPORTEDLY OFFERED TADIN A

COALITION AGREEMENT THAT WOULD PERMIT THE DMC THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS ITS OWN VIEWS ON TERRITORIAL ISSUES. BEGIN WAS ALSO SAID TO HAVE MADE SOME CONCESSIONS (VAGUELY DESCRIBED) TO THE DMC'S DEMAND THAT THE KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK.

3. THE DMC'S SECRETARIAT AND KNESSET CONTINGENT ARE MEETING TODAY TO CONSIDER THE MATTER AND A MEETING OF THE PARTY'S 120 MEMBER COUNCIL IS RUMORED FOR JUNE 29.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH YADIN HAS BEEN VERY CLOSE-MOURED ABOUT HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH BEGIN, THE LATTER'S INITIATIVE AND CONCESSIONS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT FOR YADIN TO PLACE THE QUESTION OF RENEWING TALKS FORMALLY BEFORE HIS PARTY. NEGOTIATIONS, IF THEY DO RESUME, ARE LIKELY TO BE DIFFICULT. SINCE THEY WERE BROKEN OFF TWO WEEKS AGO, A NEW OBSTACLE TO THE DMC'S PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT HAS ARISEN IN THE MANIFOLD RELIGIOUS CLAUSES OF THE COALITION AGREEMENT-- MANY OF WHICH THE DMC RANK AND FILE FIND HARD TO SWALLOW. THIS MAY BE RESOLVED BY ALLOWING THE DMC MKS TO VOTE THEIR CONSCIENCES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES. SUCH A CONCESSION COULD MEAN (AS POINTED OUT IN TOADY'S HAARETZ) THAT BEGIN MIGHT FAIL TO MUSTER A MAJORITY ON THE "WHO IS A JEW" ISSUE, THEREBY POSSIBLY LEADING TO THE DEFENCTION OF AGUDAT YISRAEL FROM THE COALITION.

5. THE ISTADRUT ELECTION CERTAINLY DID NOT IMPROVE THE DMC'S BARGAINING POSITION. ON THE OTHER HAND, ALTHOUGH HE SHOWED THAT HE COULD FORM A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THEM AND DID SO IN TIME FOR THE HISTADRUT ELECTION (BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF HIS OBJECTIVES), BEGIN NOW SEEMS ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO BRING THE DMC IN. ASIDE FROM STRENGTHENING HIS HAND FOR THE CARTER TALKS AND GIVING THE APPEARANCE, AT LEAST, OF WIDENING THE SUPPORT FOR HIS FOREIGN POLICY, BEGIN COULD USE THE EXTRA KNESSET VOTES TO ENHANCE HIS PARLIAMENTARY MANEUVERABILITY. THE OUTLOOK FOR THE DMC'S JOINING THE COALITION HAS DECIDELY IMPROVED. LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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